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LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

84-4692

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

December 10, 1984

Chief of Legislative Liaison
The Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Sir:

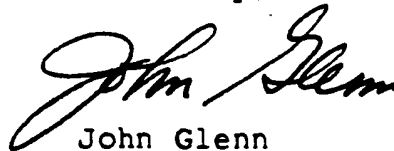
Enclosed you will find correspondence from [redacted]
[redacted] regarding the alleged suppression of evidence that
the Bulgarian government organized the attempt to assassinate
the Pope.

I hope that you can provide me with information that
will be helpful in addressing the concerns expressed in the
letter. I would appreciate receiving your response in
duplicate and the return of the original correspondence as
soon as possible. Please direct your reply to the attention
of Don Mitchell.

Thank you for your time and effort.

Best regards.

Sincerely,



John Glenn
United States Senator

JG/damb
Enclosure

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The Honorable John Glenn
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Glenn,

I am concerned about stories that U.S.
intelligence bureaus suppressed or overlooked,
unwittingly or knowingly, evidence that the
Bulgarian government organized the attempt
to assassinate the Pope.

(I enclose recent articles by Wm. Safire and
by Geo. Will.)

I feel that the situation demands a
thoroughgoing "retracing of the analysis".
in light of the shocking display of incom-
petence in this matter. One shudders to
imagine explanations other than incompetence.

Respectfully,

STAT

The empire is indeed evil

BY GEORGE F. WILL

WASHINGTON

The view from London's Waterloo Bridge — up the Thames toward Wren's dome on St. Paul's, down toward the House of Parliament — encompasses striking symbols of the West's attainments. But the bridge itself is now a symbol of the brazenness of the West's enemies.

Georgi Markov, 49, was walking across the bridge on Sept. 7, 1978, heading home from his work at the studios of the BBC External Services. Suddenly he felt a sting on the back of his thigh and, turning, saw a man bending to retrieve an umbrella. The man, with a foreign accent, murmured "I'm sorry."

Markov did not mention the incident to his wife, but early the next morning he suffered a raging fever and said: "I have a horrible feeling that this may be connected with something which happened yesterday." Markov, Bulgaria's leading man of letters before he defected, had received many threats and warnings. One warning said he would be poisoned by a substance, tested in Moscow, that causes a high fever.

Scotland Yard announced that doctors found in his thigh a tiny pellet containing ricin, a rare poison extensively studied in Eastern Europe. There is no known antidote. The pellet was a highly sophisticated bit of murder technology. It was made of a platinum-iridium alloy which the human body does not reject. It was the size of a pinhead and had four openings to hold the poison.

A similar pellet had been used in an unsuccessful assassination attempt against another Bulgarian defector in Paris. A few days after Markov died, a lieutenant general in Bulgaria's security force delivered a speech expressing "the deepest gratitude to our Soviet comrades-in-arms of the KGB for their constant help and comradely assistance."

You can read the book that got Markov killed. "The Truth That Killed" (published by Ticknor & Fields) is the autobiography he broadcast to Bulgaria, thereby enraging the regime. Markov's only child, who was just 2 when he died, asked her mother, "Why did daddy write those things if he loved us?" Her mother replied that daddy thought Bulgaria's rulers would not risk the scandal that might result from killing him. But the real scandal is that there is so slight, and so fleeting, a sense of being scandalized by

the act perpetrated by, and may be attributed to, the so-called "Bulgarian regime" — the Bulgarian regime.

The Bulgarian justice grid slowly, but they grind exceedingly small and are grinding to dust the pretense that the Turkish gunman acted alone. There is now not the slightest reason to doubt that his attack was organized by Bulgarians, that would not have undertaken such an audacious crime without the approval of the highest Soviet authorities.

None of this news to anyone who has read Claire Sterling's book, "The Time of the Assassins." Her work on this case is the journalistic achievement of the age. Her most appalling evidence strongly suggests complicity by some democracies, including this one, in covering up the Soviet crime. The cover-up that Italian authorities are pulling apart, thread by thread, demands this action:

The U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee should call in U.S. intelligence leaders and march them through Sterling's book, page by page, asking why they have so learned so much more than the intelligence agencies, collectively, did. The Intelligence Committee should dwell on her accounts of attempts by U.S. agents to discourage her investigations. The real "crime of the century" is the complicity of democracies in suppressing evidence of the Soviet crime, the relations between East and West become unpleasantly realistic.

The relations to be with a nation like the Soviet Union, a nation now killing its dissidents by medical means, describing the kidnapping, the "urban-terrorist style," of the "Bulgarian" style, the Economist (of London) says that the extraordinary fact is that this atrocity was not the work of a mere terrorist gang, but an action "approved by Soviet ruling circles," in violation of Soviet law and the equally worthless 1975 Helsinki human-rights undertakings.

It is a pity that the six-month anniversary of that kidnapping fell on the eve of the U.S. election.

The 1980 consecutive election in which all issues should be secondary to this one who best understands the evil empire of which Bulgaria is a loathsome instrument? That issue is not the issue why Reagan will win, but it is the main reason he should.

Will is a columnist for the Washing-

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ESSAY | William Safire

Retracing the Analysis

WASHINGTON

Margaret Thatcher escaped and Indira Gandhi was cut down; Ronald Reagan lived and Anwar Sadat died; the Pope survived and a pro-Soviet Polish priest was secretly murdered. Every world leader is the largest, steepest madman, or national hero, or religious fanatic, or even a leader willing to employ nuclear weapons.

That last category is what worries our strategists. It turns out that a few journalists, even right about the involvement of the Soviet-controlled Bulgarian army in the shooting of the Pope, have the trust that détente and other agreements with the Soviet Union is endangered.

The evidence of conspiracy produced by Italian prosecutors means that our C.I.A., charged with keeping the President and National Security Council informed about the international scene of the century, was inept in its first gathering and wholly mistaken in its evaluation.

We know that some of our intelligence operatives did all they could to pour cold water on the story and to discourage the Italian authorities from pursuing their investigation.

As detailed here two years ago, the C.I.A. vice-chief of station in Rome scoffed at Interior Minister Virginio Rognoni's description of the conspiracy to kill the Pope. "You have no proof," insisted our man on the scene, in the presence of an astounded Senate Committee staff member. This derogation paralleled a Soviet campaign to dissociate the K.G.B. from any connection with the deed.

"I think it is absolutely scandalous," charged Zbigniew Brzezinski after more evidence appeared this week, "that some officials in the State Department and some senior officials in the C.I.A. were unwitting — or in some cases, perhaps even witting — tools of that campaign."

When a former national security adviser grumbles about his dovish former adversaries in the State Department, that's not news; but when a man of expertise in the use of intelligence information suggests the possibility of a "witting tool" — or mole — in the C.I.A., that is worthy of note.

Mr. Brzezinski has more than a passing interest in this case. As he recounts in his memoir, during the first week of December 1981 the C.I.A. warned of the possibility of a Soviet Army move into Poland. The lame-duck President authorized his national security adviser to put in a call to the Pope to brief him on our information. Speaking in Polish, Mr. Brzezinski and the Pope had a conversation that was, in Zbig's words, "his-

Let's review U.S. data on terrorism

The Russians must have known of this call, as well as of other activities of Pope John Paul II in his native Poland, where Solidarity was catching fire. Yuri Andropov, then head of the K.G.B., could logically have come to the conclusion that only the elimination of the leading symbol of Polish nationalism would end the incipient revolt. Six months later, the attack on the Pope took place.

Since that time, Mr. Brzezinski and an associate who was formerly the C.I.A. station chief in Ankara have been among the few to encourage reporters to follow this story. This was in the face of repeated C.I.A. evaluations given to the Senate Intelligence Committee, and presumably to the President, that the "tradecraft was too clumsy" for the assassination attempt to have involved the Russians.

The conspiracy theorists seem now to have been right and the official pooh-poohers wrong. In any well-run intelligence agency, an error of this magnitude would result in a laborious operation called "retracing the analysis." The purpose would be to discover who made what wrong assessments, based on what misleading information, from what sources now to be considered unreliable — and why we tried to help the Russians by disseminating the mistaken analysis.

In that way, the C.I.A. would learn who misinformed our policy makers and why. If it was just sloppy work, the offenders would learn from their mistakes. If Mr. Brzezinski's carefully raised suspicion is correct, and some tools of Russian disinformation were "witting" — surely a long shot, but never to be overlooked — then the retracing would prove that very good management, but good security.

Now it is up to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, with Senators Durenberger and Leahy replacing Senators Goldwater and Magnuson, to make certain the agency does the retracing. The purpose is not to embarrass, but to correct. If assassination is a weapon the Russians have been using, in what Pope John Paul called today "the chain of atrocity that is staining the world with blood," we cannot afford to have naive C.I.A. field.